



The Illustrated Film Noir Primer

Edited by

G.A. James

ARK PRESS

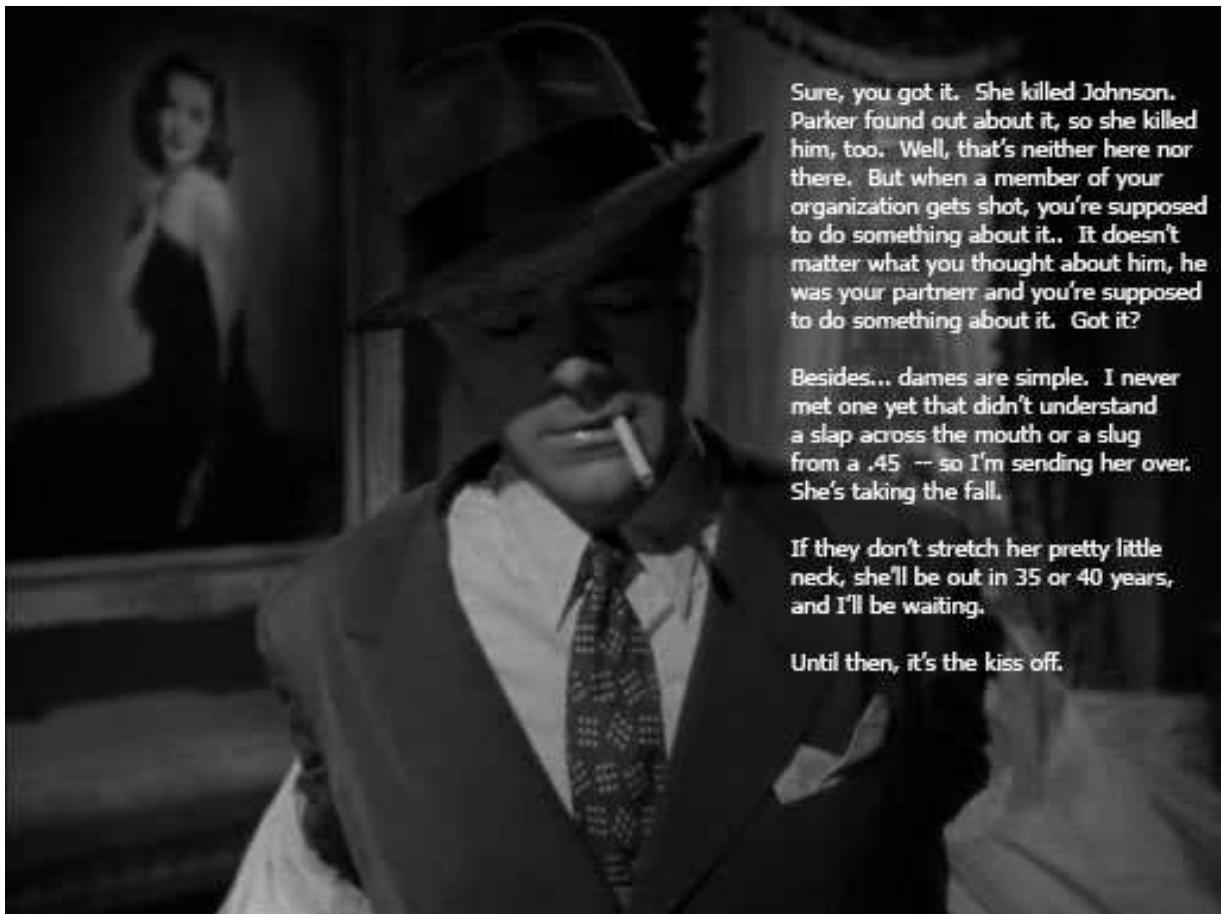
San Francisco, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Chicago, New York (and maybe Stuttgart)

The Big Question



I've been doing a lot of thinking lately, and it all boils down to one big question:
Why is it always night, and why is it always raining? Wait, that's two questions.

The Code



Sure, you got it. She killed Johnson. Parker found out about it, so she killed him, too. Well, that's neither here nor there. But when a member of your organization gets shot, you're supposed to do something about it.. It doesn't matter what you thought about him, he was your partner and you're supposed to do something about it. Got it?

Besides... dames are simple. I never met one yet that didn't understand a slap across the mouth or a slug from a .45 -- so I'm sending her over. She's taking the fall.

If they don't stretch her pretty little neck, she'll be out in 35 or 40 years, and I'll be waiting.

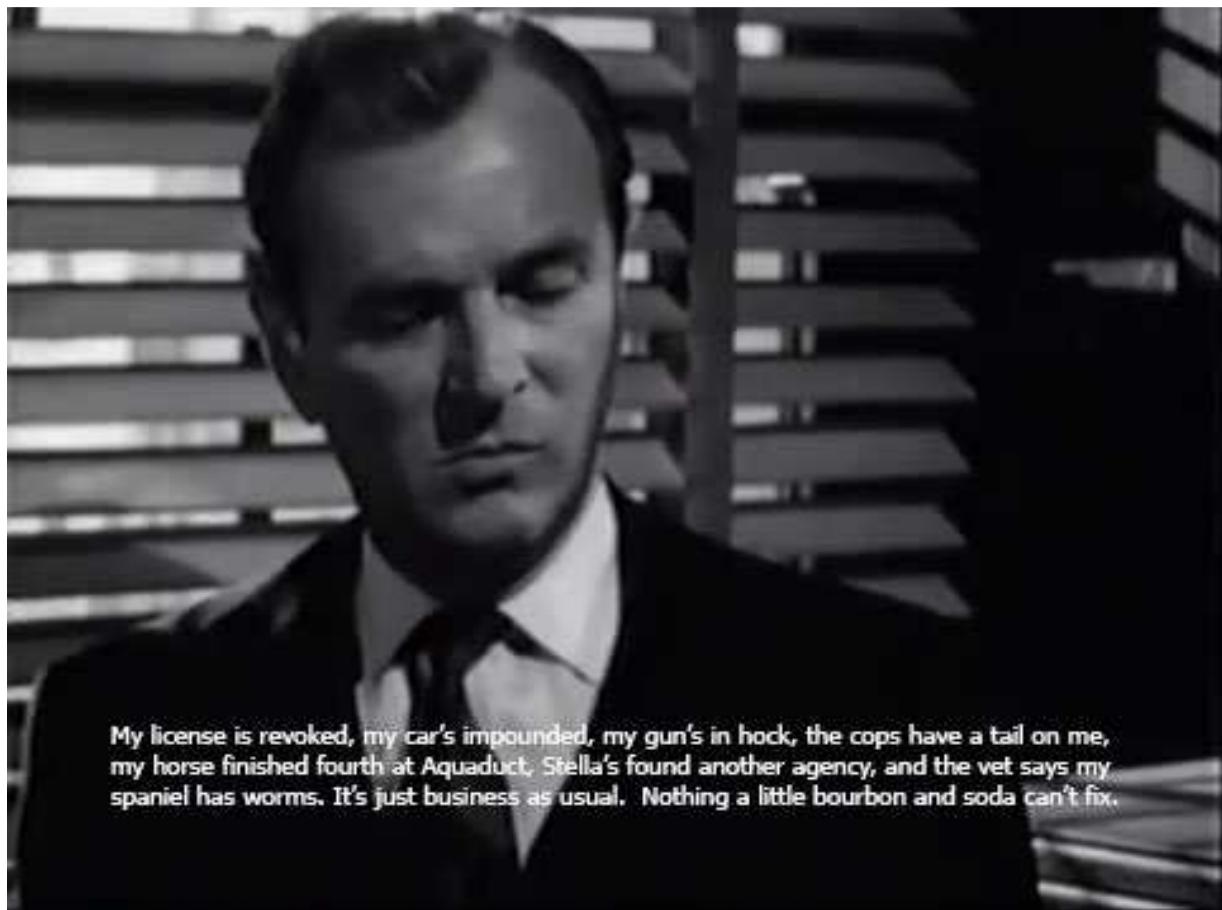
Until then, it's the kiss off.

The Woman with A Past



You're not very bright, are you.
I like that in a man.

The Guy with No Future



My license is revoked, my car's impounded, my gun's in hock, the cops have a tail on me, my horse finished fourth at Aqueduct, Stella's found another agency, and the vet says my spaniel has worms. It's just business as usual. Nothing a little bourbon and soda can't fix.

The Way Things Are

He needed a shave and a meal. Worse, he looked like life had given him a steady stream of two-timing women and cars with bad transmissions.

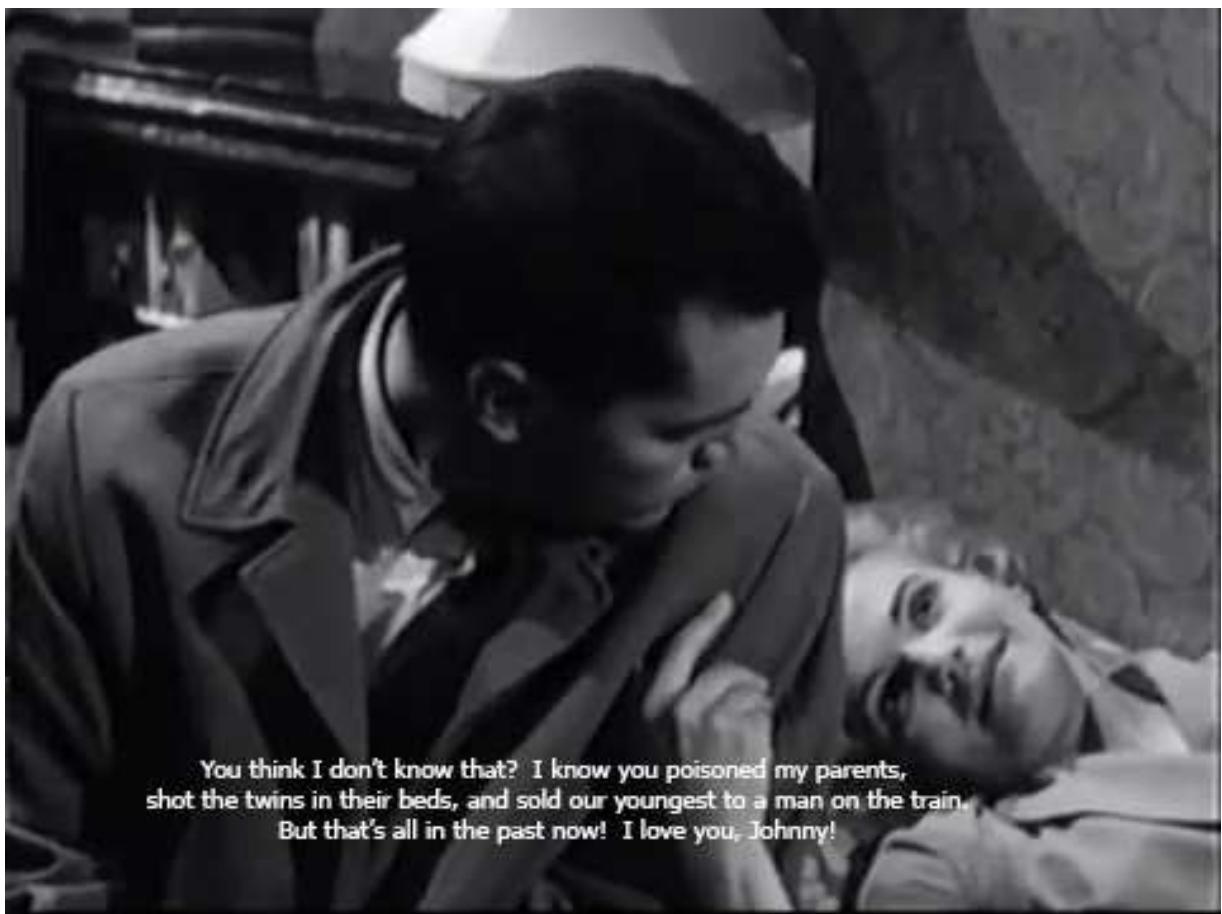


The Motive



*Both. Of course I'm happy to see you,
but that ain't no gun in my pocket, Baby.*

Auspicious Beginnings



You think I don't know that? I know you poisoned my parents,
shot the twins in their beds, and sold our youngest to a man on the train.
But that's all in the past now! I love you, Johnny!

A Few Days Later



I can read you like a book. I say 'like' a book because
there's one important difference. Books have spines!

Cold Facts



Don't be a sap. Five'll get you ten she'll suck you up her exhaust pipe and carry you along for a spare. 'Cause you're a pushover. You're not a meal ticket, you're her lunch.

Someone Gets Burned



*It was then I realized there'd be no more late dinners together,
tonight or any other night ... and no more midnight snacks.*

What Goes Around ...



... Comes Around

(Suicide. Case closed)



Exhibit A

The Expert Witness



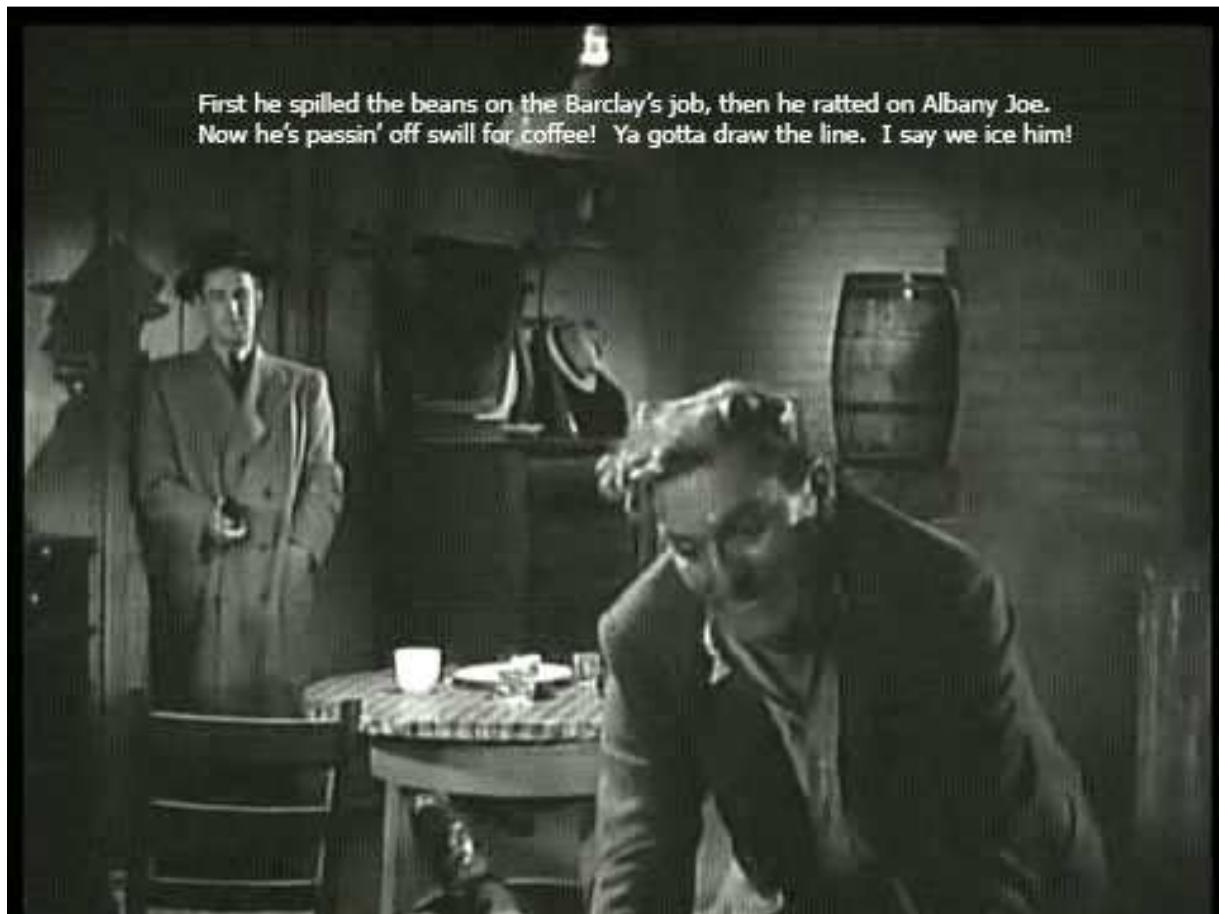
All right already, I jimmied the lock and found him lying on the floor,
as dead as his office telephone and the battery in my Ford coupe.

Cutting the Deal

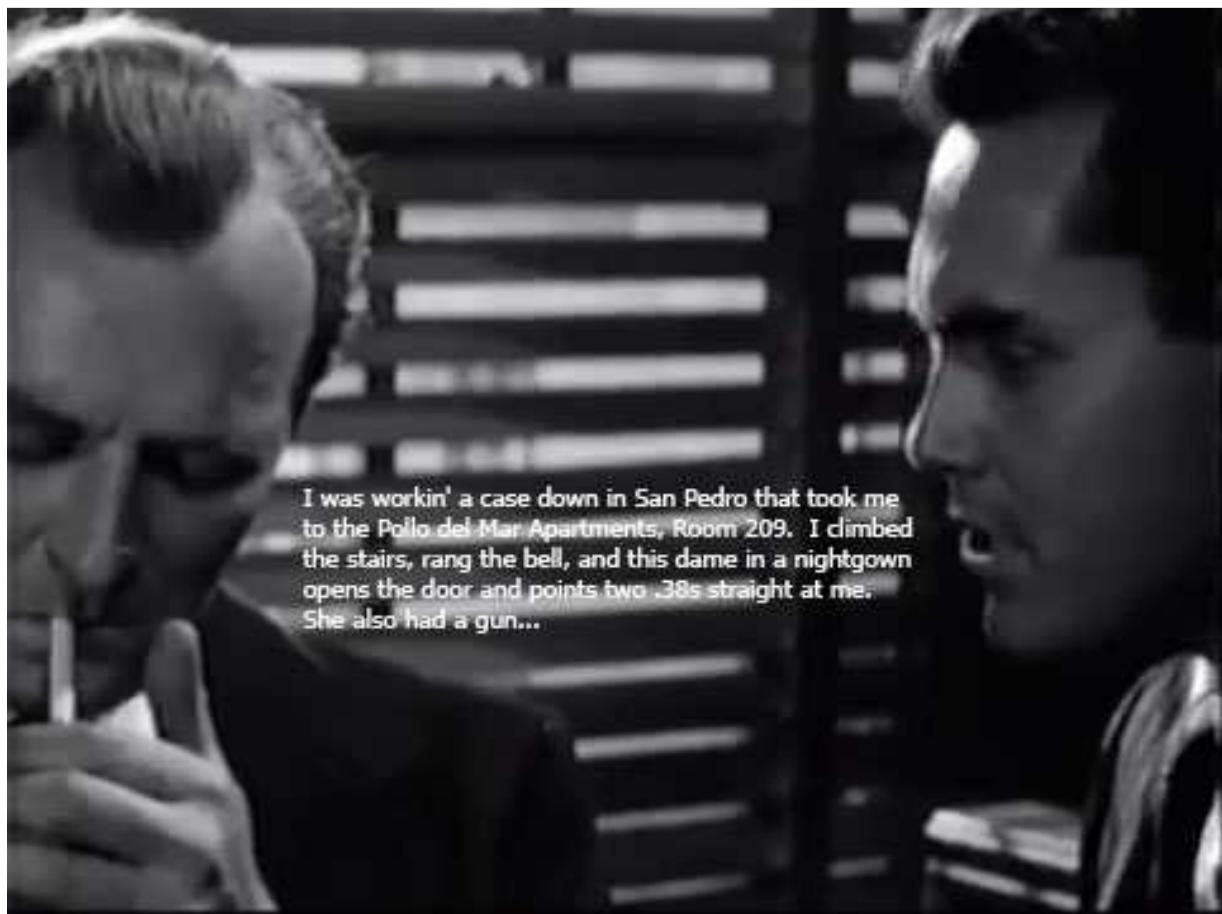


Fine. We'll play it your way, Dollface. I give you the negatives, and you return my hat!

Drawing the Line



Meanwhile, the World Keeps Turning
And the City Never Sleeps



Trapped by the Grinding Determinism of A Deal Gone Wrong

Paid To Do It, But Fails To Make His Friend's Wife Pregnant After 72 Attempts

In Stuttgart, Germany, a court judge must decide on a case of honorable intentions in a situation where a man hired his neighbor to get his wife pregnant.

It seems that Demetrius Soupolos, 29, and his former beauty queen wife, Traute, wanted a child badly, but Demetrius was told by a doctor that he was sterile.

So Soupolos, after calming his wife's protests, hired his neighbor, Frank Maus, 34, to impregnate her. Since Maus was already married and the father of two children, plus looked very much like Soupolos to boot, the plan seemed good.

Soupolos paid Maus \$2,500 for the job and for three evenings a week for the next six months,

Maus tried desperately, a total of 72 different times, to impregnate Traute.

When his own wife objected, he explained, "I don't like this any more than you. I'm simply doing it for the money. Try and understand."

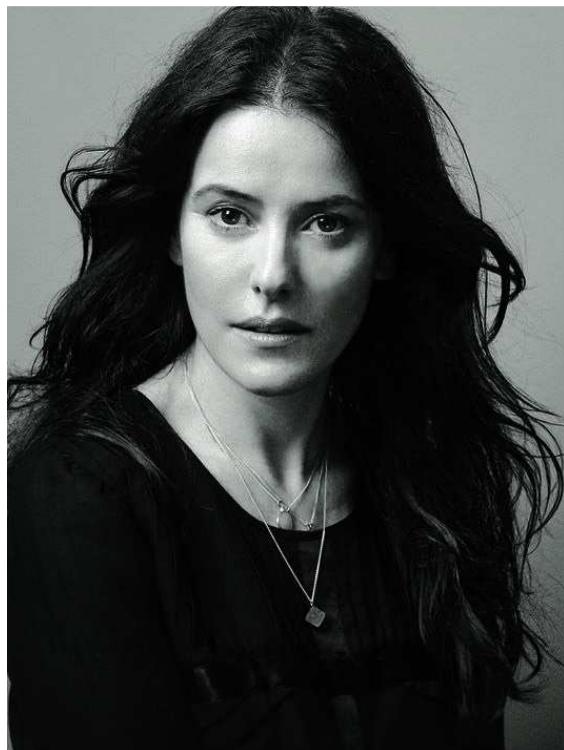
When Traute failed to get pregnant after six months, however, Soupolos was not understanding and insisted that Maus have a medical examination, which he did.

The doctor's announcement that Maus was also sterile shocked everyone except his wife, who was forced to confess that Maus was not the real father of their two children.

Now Soupolos is suing Maus for breach of contract in an effort to get his money back, but Maus refuses to give it up because he said he did not guarantee conception, but only that he would give an honest effort.

That's how it usually gets started, unless it's an insurance scam.

So, *watch out*, especially when you see one of these:



Usually, they can be identified by suspicious behavior:



Or by persuasive tactics:



So, don't be a sap, a mark, a meal ticket, a patsy, or a pushover.

Forewarned is Forearmed

And remember: Always wear a tie.

